

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



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Editor's Note: The President was in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, on January 6, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Week Ending Friday, January 3, 1997

The President's Radio Address

December 28, 1996

As we approach the New Year, I hope all Americans will think about the blessings we share and our obligation to use those blessings wisely. The New Year is about opportunity, about renewed chances to make the most of our God-given potential. But as always, with opportunity comes responsibility; that is America's basic bargain.

Today I want to talk about one of our greatest responsibilities: taking care to protect ourselves and our children. One of the most important places to do that is on the road. Especially at this time of year, too many people pose a threat to themselves and to others by drinking and driving. That's why I fought to make it illegal for all people under 21 to drive with any alcohol in their blood, and that is now the law in 34 of our States. We should use the privilege of a driver's license to demand responsibility when it comes to drugs by insisting that teens pass a drug test as a condition of getting a driver's license. Let's send a simple message to our children, our families, and our friends: Driving under the influence of drug or alcohol is wrong; it's illegal; it can kill.

There's more we must do to meet the fundamental rules of safety. We must all wear seatbelts, which are the first line of defense against injuries and fatalities, saving 10,000 lives last year alone. We must use child safety seats for small children and always keep children 12 and under buckled up in the back seat, where they are safest. And we must all learn about the proper use of air bags, one of our most important safety tools.

In recent months, some concerns have been raised about air bags. But this much is clear: Air bags do save lives, almost 1,700 since their introduction. At the same time, air bags inflate with considerable force and can pose risks to children sitting unbuckled in the front passenger seat, instead of buck-

led up in the back seat where they belong. That's why our Department of Transportation is working with auto and insurance companies, safety groups, and parents and families to make air bags safer for children, so that together with seatbelts and other safety measures, they do provide the full protection our families need.

Researchers are now developing a new generation of "smart" air bags, which will determine the size of the passenger and inflate just enough to protect them without hurting them. But while we wait for this new technology, there are steps we can take now to protect our children.

This November our administration's Department of Transportation announced we would soon propose a series of short-term steps to make air bags safer for kids. Right away, we required better and more visible warning labels in cars and on child safety seats, so that no one forgets to keep small children buckled up in the back seat.

Today I am pleased to announce we are sending forward three additional proposals to protect our children, as outlined last month by the Department of Transportation. First, under these new rules, auto manufacturers will be able to install less powerful air bags, to reduce the risk to children and to smaller and older adults. Second, car dealers will be able to deactivate the air bags of any owner who requests it, as long as the owner understands the risk of doing so. For both of these measures, we will begin taking public comment next week, and they could take effect as early as this spring. Finally, effective immediately, we are extending a rule that lets manufacturers install cut-off switches in cars that don't have back seats or room for child safety seats. Those who cannot buckle a child safely in the back seat will be able to switch-off the air bag while the child rides in the front.

Of course, air bags have always been just part of the solutions. In rear or side collisions,

air bags are not even meant to inflate. That's why we must always wear our seatbelts: it protects us in all kinds of collisions. If there is one thing we can do to save thousands of American lives, it is to increase seatbelt use nationwide. Today I am directing the Secretary of Transportation to work with the Congress, the States, and other concerned Americans to report back to me with a plan to do just that.

The steps we are taking will make our roads safer and our children more secure. We are making air bags safer for our children. We are working to increase the use of seatbelts nationwide. And we are demanding the responsibility that comes with the privilege of driving. That's the way to ensure that families go for a drive with safety, security, and peace of mind. If we'll all just take that responsibility, both on and off the road, if we all do our share to protect our children and our families and meet our obligations to each other, we will be able to seize the remarkable opportunities that this New Year will bring.

In this season of renewal, let us resolve to seize that opportunity and to rise to that responsibility, to make the most of 1997. Hillary and I are very grateful we've had the chance to serve in this last year; we're very grateful for all the American people have done for our family in this past year. We wish you and your families a happy New Year, and we look forward to working with you in the years ahead to meet our challenges and make our Nation a stronger, safer place for all Americans.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:41 a.m. on December 27 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on December 28.

Statement on the Resolution of the Korean Peninsula Submarine Incident

December 29, 1996

I welcome today's official statement by North Korea conveying its deep regret for the submarine incident in South Korea last September. I am pleased that P'yongyang has

pledged to prevent the recurrence of such an incident and has expressed its willingness to work with others for durable peace and stability on the Peninsula. This is a significant development, which I hope will contribute to the reduction of tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

I extend my appreciation to President Kim Yong-sam for his personal efforts to resolve the submarine incursion in a way that opens the door for future South-North dialog. The United States and South Korea have cooperated closely as firm allies to resolve this issue. I hope discussions can now begin to move forward on the four-party peace talks which President Kim Yong-sam and I offered last April.

Notice—Continuation of Libyan Emergency

January 2, 1997

On January 7, 1986, by Executive Order No. 12543, President Reagan declared a national emergency to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Libya. On January 8, 1986, by Executive Order No. 12544, the President took additional measures to block Libyan assets in the United States. The President has transmitted a notice continuing this emergency to the Congress and the *Federal Register* every year since 1986. The most recent notice appeared in the *Federal Register* on January 5, 1996.

The crisis between the United States and Libya that led to the declaration of a national emergency on January 7, 1986, has not been resolved. The Government of Libya has continued its actions and policies in support of terrorism, despite the calls by the United Nations Security Council, in Resolutions 731 (1992), 748 (1992), and 883 (1993), that it demonstrate by concrete actions its renunciation of such terrorism. Such Libyan actions and policies pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and vital foreign policy interests of the United States. For these reasons, the national emergency declared on January 7, 1986, and

the measures adopted on January 7 and January 8, 1986, to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond January 7, 1997. Therefore, in accordance with Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing the national emergency with respect to Libya. This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
January 2, 1997.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:53 a.m., January 2, 1997]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on January 3.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders on
Continuation of the Libyan
Emergency**
January 2, 1997

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Libyan emergency is to continue in effect beyond January 7, 1997, to the *Federal Register* for publication. Similar notices have been sent annually to the Congress and the *Federal Register* since December 23, 1986. The most recent notice appeared in the *Federal Register* on January 3, 1996.

The crisis between the United States and Libya that led to the declaration of a national emergency on January 7, 1986, has not been resolved. The Government of Libya has continued its actions and policies in support of terrorism, despite the calls by the United Nations Security Council, in Resolutions 731 (1992), 748 (1992), and 883 (1993), that it demonstrate by concrete actions its renunciation of such terrorism. Such Libyan actions

and policies pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and vital foreign policy interests of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain in force the broad authorities necessary to apply economic pressure to the Government of Libya to reduce its ability to support international terrorism.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate.

**Statement on Action on Title III of
the Cuban Liberty and Democratic
Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996**
January 3, 1997

Last July, I allowed title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act (LIBERTAD Act) to come into force but suspended for 6 months the right it grants to American nationals to bring suit against foreign firms trafficking in confiscated properties in Cuba. I took this step so that we could have time to develop a more common approach with our allies and trading partners to promote democracy, human rights, and fundamental freedoms in Cuba. We and our allies agree on the vital need for a transition to democracy on the island, but differences over how to achieve that aim have often overshadowed the goal itself. That is why I decided to make maximum use of title III to increase pressure on the Castro regime by working with our allies—not against them—to accelerate change in Cuba.

Over the past 6 months, our efforts have yielded real progress. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Under Secretary of Commerce Stuart Eizenstat, who serves as my Special Representative for the Promotion of Democracy in Cuba, the international community is more united behind the cause of freedom in Cuba than ever before in the 38-year history of Castro's oppressive regime.

Today, in order to consolidate and build on the momentum we have generated for democratic change in Cuba, I have decided

to extend for another 6 months the suspension of the right to file suit under title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act.

A number of developments show the strengthened international consensus for change in Cuba. The European Union, acting consistent with its traditional democratic values, in December adopted an historic "Common Position" binding all 15 member nations to promote democracy and reform in Cuba. The EU's action explicitly makes any improvement in political or economic relations with Cuba contingent on concrete advances in human rights and political freedoms on the island. At the Ibero-American Summit in Santiago in November, heads of state from Latin America, Spain, and Portugal called for democracy and full respect for human rights, thus emphasizing Cuba's isolation as the hemisphere's only nondemocratic nation.

Governments and nongovernmental organizations are increasing their backing for dissidents on the island and keeping international attention focused on repression in Cuba. A new European Platform for Human Rights and Democracy in Cuba is being created to help coordinate NGO activity to strengthen independent groups in Cuba. European business leaders and organizations are supporting a set of best-business practices so, if they invest in Cuba, it will benefit Cuban workers and not the government. Europe's major labor organization, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, has strongly condemned Castro's labor practices and called for free trade unions.

These and other steps have sent a clarion message of hope to the Cuban people. They underscore that it is Castro who is isolated, not those who welcome the democratic tide of history. They demonstrate the international community's resolve to end the dictatorship so the people of Cuba can enjoy the freedom and prosperity they deserve.

The international momentum we have built to promote democracy in Cuba must be preserved and strengthened. During the coming 6 months and thereafter, we will continue working with our allies to develop the most comprehensive, effective measures to promote democracy in Cuba that we can. We

also will continue to enforce title IV of the LIBERTAD Act.

The law requires that I review title III every 6 months. I would expect to continue suspending the right to file suit so long as America's friends and allies continue their stepped-up efforts to promote a transition to democracy in Cuba. I hope, furthermore, that the momentum created by the EU's actions will lead to similar Cuba democracy efforts by others, including governments in our own hemisphere.

The Cuban people have lived under tyranny for too long. We must sustain our efforts to hasten the arrival of democracy in Cuba. As a result of increasing international pressure, we have never been closer to that day. We will not be satisfied until that day arrives.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996

January 3, 1997

Dear _____:

Pursuant to subsection 306(c)(2) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-114), (the "Act"), I hereby determine and report to the Congress that suspension for 6 months beyond February 1, 1997, of the right to bring an action under Title III of the Act is necessary to the national interests of the United States and will expedite a transition to democracy in Cuba.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, and Claiborne Pell, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Mark O. Hatfield, chairman, and Robert C. Byrd, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Benjamin A. Gilman, chairman, and Lee H. Hamilton, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations; and Robert L. Livingston, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

December 30

In the morning, the President and Hillary and Chelsea Clinton traveled to Hilton Head, SC, where they attended the annual Renaissance Weekend. In the evening, the President attended a dinner honoring retired Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., at the Hilton hotel.

January 1

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority to express condolences on the attack on civilians by an off-duty Israeli soldier in Hebron, West Bank.

In the afternoon, the President and Hillary and Chelsea Clinton traveled to St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, for a vacation.

January 2

The President named the winners of the 1996 National Medal of Arts and the Charles Frankel Prize in the Humanities. He and the First Lady will present the awards on January 9 at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium, in Washington, DC.

The recipients of the National Medal of Arts are: Edward Albee, Sarah Caldwell, Harry Callahan, Zelda Fichandler, Eduardo (Lalo) Guerrero, Lionel Hampton, Bella Lewitzky, Vera List, Robert Redford, Maurice Sendak, Stephen J. Sondheim, and the Boys Choir of Harlem.

The recipients of the Frankel Prize in the Humanities are: Rita Dove, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Daniel Kemmis, Arturo Madrid, and Bill Moyers.

Released January 3

The President declared a major disaster in Nevada and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, mud

and land slides beginning on December 20, 1996, and continuing.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor fully covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released December 29

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the Guatemala peace accords

Released December 31

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Mary Ellen Glynn

Released January 1

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the attack by an off-duty Israeli soldier in Hebron

Released January 2

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Mary Ellen Glynn

Released January 3

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Mary Ellen Glynn

Fact sheet on the President's decision on title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

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